

2nd June, 1958.

My dear Rao,

Thanks for your letter and for your news of June.

I do not know what particular criticism the method of maximum likelihood has received since the time of Gauss, 100 years ago, but it is quite clear that misunderstandings, sometimes arising out of sheer stupidity, and sometimes I think deliberately fostered, have been very widespread. Maurice Kendall's definitions of statistical terms seem particularly aimed at creating such misunderstandings, but he is known to be as deeply muddle-headed as anybody, and it is merely unfortunate that he should have undertaken a task requiring some clarity of thought. If you read Heredity you would be amused by the profound confusion evinced by Lindley in reviewing my recent book. It is an exhibit which I thought well worthwhile to put on record.

Sincerely yours,